

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 6 Summer Announcement # 6, District 4 Subsistence Fishing Schedules Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

In preparation for another potentially poor Yukon River Chinook salmon run, subsistence fishermen are strongly encouraged to voluntarily reduce their Chinook salmon harvest to not exceed 25% of their average annual harvest to help ensure adequate escapement. For example, a family that normally harvests 40 Chinook salmon should consider taking only 10 this year. Fishermen should consider shifting harvest to other salmon species, where possible, to supplement a reduced Chinook salmon harvest.

Conservative management actions have been implemented in accordance with the preseason management plan outlined in the 2013 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Outlook and the subsistence salmon fishing schedule has been initiated in Districts 1-3. However, adjustments to the subsistence schedules in these districts are being made to allow for more fishing opportunity in response to the late break up. Consistent with these changes, implementation of the subsistence schedule in District 4 is being delayed. As the schedule is initiated, gillnets will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size in each district including District 4 and the Koyukuk River.

Subsistence fishing for all species in District 4 and the Koyukuk River is currently open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less until the regulatory schedule becomes effective.

Subdistrict 4-A (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Cone Point, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk):

Effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, subsistence salmon fishing will consist of two 48-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. By regulation, fishermen in Subdistrict 4-A may use drift gillnets during scheduled subsistence fishing periods on the mainstem of the Yukon River from June 10 to July 14.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek, which includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby):

Effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, subsistence salmon fishing will consist of two 48-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 p.m. Fridays and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

State regulations do not allow the use of drift gillnets in State waters of Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C. Federal regulations allow the use of drift gillnets in Federal waters of Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C. Subsistence salmon fishermen should consult both State and Federal regulations before subsistence fishing. Subsistence fishermen wishing to utilize drift gillnet gear in these subdistricts should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (907) 949-1798 or 456-0418 to verify the fishing schedule, gear restrictions, and specific locations where the gear may be used.

Koyukuk River: Effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, gillnets will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon and subsistence salmon fishing will be open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The ADFG and USFWS seasonal offices in Emmonak are now open for the 2013 season. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the offices will be closed on Sunday.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 456-0418 or in Emmonak at 949-1798.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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